

**COMMANDING GENERAL
MARINE CORPS RECRUITING COMMAND**

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (SAPR) POLICY STATEMENT

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact characterized by the use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority or when the victim *does not or cannot* consent. The term includes a broad category of sexual offenses consisting of the following specific Uniform Code of Military Justice offenses: rape, sexual assault, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, forcible sodomy (forced oral or anal sex) or attempts to commit these acts. The crime of sexual assault is not restricted by gender, age or spousal relationship of the victim.

Sexual assault is contrary to the foundational Marine Corps Core Values of Honor, Courage, Commitment. It has no place within our ranks. Witnessing any such activity without taking action is equally complicit. Being a passive bystander is not an option and will not be tolerated. Bystanders to potential assaults must take decisive action to prevent these incidents from occurring. To do otherwise is the opposite of what we stand for.



Victims of sexual assault have two reporting options: Unrestricted and Restricted Reporting. Both forms afford the victim emotional/psychological support, advocacy, medical assistance, and counseling.

- **Unrestricted Reporting** includes all suspected, alleged, or actual sexual assaults made known to law enforcement for formal investigation.
- **Restricted Reporting** affords victims of sexual assault the option to make a confidential report *without notification of law enforcement or the Command.*

Marines should speak with a SAPR VA, SARC, or VLC to gain a thorough understanding of reporting options and to understand the available resources.

Victim safety, rights and confidentiality are paramount. All victims are entitled to be treated with dignity, fairness, and respect, regardless of their reporting option. Commanders will ensure victims receive appropriate medical, psychological, and social services support – all without prejudice or fear of reprisal. Those who have the courage to report must feel confident their personal safety will be protected and that they will not be ignored, ostracized, or re-victimized by the organization.

All commanders will establish command climates where mutual respect, trust and core values are maintained and reinforced; where being treated with dignity and respect is the norm and never the exception. Every leader is responsible for establishing a climate where ethical misconduct, sexual misconduct, sexist behavior, sexual harassment, and sexual assault are not tolerated, condoned or ignored.

Sexual assault prevention takes many forms, beginning with the continued education of all hands, and the steadfast attention of commanders and leaders at every level. In line with continued prevention efforts, we will not accept excessive alcohol use, innuendo or gender-based terminology, or demeaning and inappropriate behavior.

If you or someone you know needs immediate assistance involving sexual assault or retaliation relating to a sexual assault, please call the 24/7 Sexual Assault Support Line at (703)-432-9999, or contact the MCRC SAPR VA or SARC. You may also contact the DoD Safe Helpline at (877)-995-5247 to be connected with support resources.



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Commanding General